

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following rewritten Abstract which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--According to the invention, the above-mentioned object is attained by the features defined [[in]] herein ~~the characterizing clause of claim 1. Preferred embodiments of the invention are furthermore defined in the dependent claims.--~~